

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15113 150851Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 15113

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP US IS (MONDALE, WALTER)
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 150558, (B) CAIRO 15014

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FIRST HIGH-LEVEL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S UPCOMING TRIP SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ISRAEL. LATE LAST NIGHT VP MUBARAK CALLED AMBASSADOR, AT PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPECIFIC BEHEST, TO DISCUSS MATTER. FONMIN KAMEL HAD INFORMED SADAT OF VP MONDALE'S TRIP.

2. SPEAKING FOR SADAT, MUBARAK MADE STRONG PITCH THAT VP MONDALE'S VISIT, IF CONFINED TO ISRAEL, WILL BE BADLY RECEIVED IN ARAB WORLD. IT WILL BE SEEN AS FAVORITISM TOWARD ISRAEL. SADAT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM RAISE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN TERMS OF "THIS IS NOT THE PROPER THING TO DO AT THIS CRITICAL TIME IN ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS IS NOT THE CORRECT THING TO DO. IT WILL BE BADLY RECEIVED IN EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD AND
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WILL CAUSE ME (SADAT) GREAT EMBARRASSMENT." WITH CONSIDERABLE PASSION, MUBARAK KEPT REPEATING THIS THEME.

3. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT VP MONDALE'S VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO A LONGSTANDING INVITATION HAVING TO DO WITH CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ISRAEL AND THAT VISIT WILL BE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE.

AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT TIME PRESSURES ON VP MONDALE'S SCHEDULE HAVING TO DO WITH DOMESTIC BUSINESS PRECLUDES HIS CONSIDERING ANY OTHER STOPS IN THE AREA. VP MONDALE REGRETS THIS, BUT HOPES GOE AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL UNDERSTAND.

4. AGAIN SPEAKING FOR SADAT, VP MUBARAK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD VP MONDALE'S HEAVY SCHEDULE, BUT HOPED LATTER WOULD RECONSIDER AND COME AT LEAST FOR A DAY TO EGYPT. WHILE VP MONDALE MAY HOPE TRIP WILL BE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE, ISRAELIS MAY BE EXPECTED USE VISIT TO SEEK TO FURTHER THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. IF VP MONDALE VISITS ONLY ISRAEL, SADAT WANTED PRESIDENT CARTER TO KNOW THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THIS WILL HURT ME PEACE PROCESS. IT WILL PRODUCE A LESSENING OF CONFIDENCE IN USG'S AVOWED DESIRE TO BE IMPARTIAL. MUBARAK SAID SADAT WANTED MATTER BROUGHT TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENTION, SINCE FROM SYMBOLIC POINT OF VIEW, WHERE VP MONDALE GOES OR DOES NOT GO ON UPCOMING VISIT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND CAN POSITIVELY OR OTHERWISE AFFECT ME PEACE PROCESS.

5. AMBASSADOR AGREED BRING MATTER TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION, BUT REITERATED THAT VP MONDALE'S SCHEDULE IS SUCH THAT THERE IS NO PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING EGYPT ON UPCOMING TRIP. AMBASSADOR AGAIN NOTED TRIP WILL BE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL IN NATURE AND SHOULD NOT AFFECT ME
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PEACE PROCESS. EILTS

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